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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,387	06/12/2000	Carl T. Anderson	RSW9-2000-0026-US1	5014

7590 05/09/2005

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,387

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Final Rejection, filed 04/15/05.

Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims. In the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 11, 14, and 15 are amended.

This action is made final.

Applicant's arguments, see the Remarks, filed 04/15/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5-10, and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made upon Habib et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356) in view of Simonson (U.S. Patent No. 6,803,930 B1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Habib et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356).

As to claim 1, Habib teaches a user assistance system for providing user assistance in connection with selectable steps associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer system, each of said selectable steps capable of being active or inactive, and each

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implementing one or more substeps when selected, with one of the selectable steps being a currently-selected step, said user assistance system comprising:

a client work area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step (e.g., col. 3 line 60-col. 4 line 14, and figs. 4-6); and

a navigator bar adjacent to said client work area (the selectable steps listing as element 86 of figs. 4-5 would have been obvious to implement these steps into a tab bar/icon to improve visualization when working on different screen layouts), said visual representation including a display of steps that are active and steps that are inactive (e.g., col. 4 lines 5-56, and figs. 4-6).

As to claim 2, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 1, wherein said navigator bar is dividable into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said selectable steps (e.g., element 86 of figs. 4-5).

As to claim 4, Habib teaches the user-assistance program of claim 1, wherein said displayed steps comprise the most likely steps to be traversed in connection with the currently selected step (if the current step in 86 is selected, the most likely steps to be traversed are the step(s) right above or under the current step, figs. 4-6).

As to claims 11-12 and 14, they are method claims of system claims 1-2 and 4. Note the rejections of claims 1-2 and 4 above respectively.

3. Claims 5-10 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Habib et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356) in view of Simonson (U.S. Patent No. 6,803,930 B1).

As to claim 5, modified Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 4, wherein said visual representation of said selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

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the currently-selected step (e.g., col. 3 line 60-col. 4 line 14); however, Habib does not show the past steps already performed by the computer program. Simonson clearly teaches the techniques described here allow applications to use a visual indication within the displayed content to differentiate between previously viewed content and newly presented content, the indicator is added to a displayed content portion to improve visualization to the user in the previous view and/or which part of the displayed content is newly visible to the user (e.g., col. 7 lines 1-20 and figs. 7-13B). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the status indicator of Simonson in the user interface of Habib to ease the user when locating the content by clearly defining the current status of the task (e.g., col. 7 lines 16-20).

As to claim 6, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 5, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments, and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment (e.g., col. 3 line 60-col. 4 line 14, and figs. 5-6).

As to claim 7, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 6, wherein said navigator bar displays said segments in a serial manner, and wherein said navigator bar can be scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step (the next step in the series of steps required to complete a desired task, e.g., col. 4 lines 20-27).

As to claim 8, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 7, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area

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(the next step in the series of steps is only activated when being clicked, e.g., col. 4 lines 5-56, and figs. 4-6).

As to claim 9, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 8, wherein said information displayed in said client area comprises a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program (e.g., col. 4 lines 5-56, and figs. 4-6).

As to claim 10, Habib teaches the user assistance system of claim 9, wherein selection of one of said alternative choices causes said display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to change to a display of future steps associated with said selected alternative choice (e.g., "do it all", col. 6 lines 16-53, and figs. 4-6).

As to claims 15-20, they are method claims of system claims 5-10. Note the rejections of claims 5-10 above respectively.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

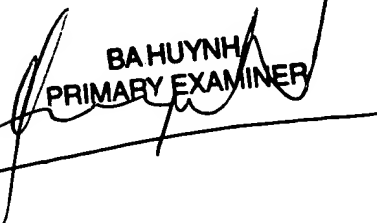
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 571-272-4134. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

05/04/05


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER